

**United States District Court
Central District of California**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA vs.

Docket No.

CR 09-1005-TJH

JS-3

Defendant NICHOLE MICHELLE MERZI

Social Security No. 7 5 0 4

akas: Nichole Mahmoud Merzi

(Last 4 digits)

JUDGMENT AND PROBATION/COMMITMENT ORDER

In the presence of the attorney for the government, the defendant appeared in person on this date.

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
MAY	14	2012

COUNSEL



WITH COUNSEL

Mark Geragos, Retained

(Name of Counsel)

PLEA



GUILTY, and the court being satisfied that there is a factual basis for the plea.



**NOLO
CONTENDERE**



**NOT
GUILTY**

FINDING

There being a finding/verdict of ☒ **GUILTY**, defendant has been convicted as charged of the offense(s) of:

Wire and Bank Fraud Conspiracy in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1349, as charged in Count 1 of the Indictment.

Bank Fraud, Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to be Done in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1344(1),(2), as charged in Count 34, 35, 38 and 39 of the Indictment.

Aggravated Identify Theft, Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to be Done in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1028A(a)(1),(2), as charged in Count 46 of the Indictment.

Computer Fraud Conspiracy in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 371, as charged in Count 48 of the Indictment.

Money Laundering Conspiracy in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1956(h), as charged in Count 51 of the Indictment.

**JUDGMENT
AND PROB/
COMM
ORDER**

The Court asked whether there was any reason why judgment should not be pronounced. Because no sufficient cause to the contrary was shown, or appeared to the Court, the Court adjudged the defendant guilty as charged and convicted and ordered that: Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, it is the judgment of the Court that the defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of: **Sixty (60) months**

The Court ORDERS the defendant to pay to the United States a special assessment of \$800.00, to the Clerk of the Court, which is due immediately. Any unpaid balance shall be due during the period of imprisonment, at the rate of not less than \$25 per quarter, and pursuant to the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

It is ordered that the defendant shall pay restitution in the total amount of \$43,021 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A.

The amount of restitution ordered shall be paid as follows:

<u>Victim</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wells Fargo Bank	\$3,585
Bank of America	\$39,436

Restitution shall be due during the period of imprisonment, at the rate of not less than \$25 per quarter, and pursuant to the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. If any amount of restitution remains unpaid after release from custody, monthly installments of at least 10% of defendants' gross monthly income during the period of supervised release and shall begin 30 days after the commencement of supervision. Nominal restitution payments are ordered as the court finds that the defendant's economic circumstances do not allow for either immediate or future payment of the amount ordered.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive approximately proportional payment unless another priority

order or percentage payment is specified in this judgment.

The defendant shall be held jointly and severally liable with the following co-participants for the amount of restitution ordered in this judgment: Kenneth Joseph Lucas; Candace Marie Zie; Rynn Spencer; Christopher Uhamaka; and Manu T. Fifta. The victims' recovery is limited to the amount of their loss and the defendant's liability for restitution ceases if and when the victims receive full restitution.

The defendant shall comply with General Order No. 01-05. All fines are waived as it is found that the defendant does not have the ability to pay a fine in addition to restitution.

Pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, it is the judgment of the Court that the defendant, NICHOLE MICHELLE MERZI, is, hereby, committed on Counts 1, 34, 35, 38, 39, 48, and 51 of the Indictment to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of **36 months**. This term consists of 36 months on each of Counts 1, 34, 35, 38, 39, and 51 and 36 months on Count 48, to be served concurrently, and 24 months on Count 46, to be served consecutively. For a total of **60 months**. Defendant shall receive credit for any time served.

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised release for a term of three years. This term consists of three years on each of Counts 1, 34, 35, 38 and 39, three years on each of counts 48 and 51, and one year on Count 46 of the Indictment, all such terms to run concurrently under the following terms and conditions:

1. The defendant shall comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Probation Office and General Order 05-02.
2. During the period of community supervision the defendant shall pay the special assessment and restitution in accordance with this judgment's orders pertaining to such payment.
3. The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant.
4. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, not to exceed eight tests per month, as directed by the Probation Officer.
5. The defendant shall apply all monies received from income tax refunds, lottery winnings, inheritance, judgments and any anticipated or unexpected financial gains to the outstanding court-ordered financial obligation.
6. When not employed or excused by the Probation Officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons, the defendant shall perform 20 hours of community service per week as directed by the Probation Officer.
7. The defendant shall not obtain or possess any driver's license, Social Security number, birth certificate, passport or any other form of identification in any name, other than the defendant's true legal name; nor shall the defendant use, for any purpose or in any manner, any name other than her true legal name or names without the prior written approval of the Probation Officer.
8. The defendant shall possess and use only those computers and computer-related devices, screen user names, passwords, email accounts, and internet service providers (ISPs), which have been disclosed to the Probation Officer upon commencement of supervision. Any changes or additions are to be disclosed to the Probation Officer prior to the first use. Computers and computer-related devices are personal computers, personal data assistants (PDAs), internet appliances, electronic games, cellular telephones, and digital storage media, as well as their peripheral equipment, that can access, or can be modified to access the internet, electronic bulletin boards, and other computers.
9. All computers, computer-related devices, and their peripheral equipment, used by the defendant shall be subject to search and seizure. This shall not apply to items used at the employment's site, which are maintained and monitored by the employer.
10. The defendant shall submit to a search, at any time, with or without warrant, and by any law enforcement or probation officer, of the defendant's person and any property, house, residence, vehicle, papers, computer, other electronic communication or data

storage devices or media, and effects upon reasonable suspicion concerning a violation of a condition of supervision or unlawful conduct by the defendant, or by any probation officer in the lawful discharge of the officer's supervision functions.

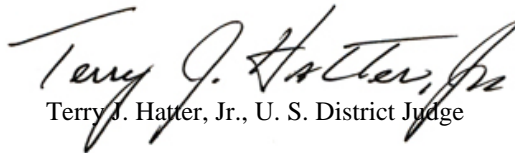
Justification is as stated today on the record.

The Court informs the defendant of her right to appeal.

In addition to the special conditions of supervision imposed above, it is hereby ordered that the Standard Conditions of Probation and Supervised Release within this judgment be imposed. The Court may change the conditions of supervision, reduce or extend the period of supervision, and at any time during the supervision period or within the maximum period permitted by law, may issue a warrant and revoke supervision for a violation occurring during the supervision period.

May 17, 2012

Date


Terry J. Hatter, Jr., U. S. District Judge

It is ordered that the Clerk deliver a copy of this Judgment and Probation/Commitment Order to the U.S. Marshal or other qualified officer.

Terry Nafisi, Clerk of U.S. District Court

May 17, 2012

Filed Date

By Yolanda Skipper
Deputy Clerk

The defendant shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court (set forth below).

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE

While the defendant is on probation or supervised release pursuant to this judgment:

1. The defendant shall not commit another Federal, state or local crime;
2. the defendant shall not leave the judicial district without the written permission of the court or probation officer;
3. the defendant shall report to the probation officer as directed by the court or probation officer and shall submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month;
4. the defendant shall answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer and follow the instructions of the probation officer;
5. the defendant shall support his or her dependents and meet other family responsibilities;
6. the defendant shall work regularly at a lawful occupation unless excused by the probation officer for schooling, training, or other acceptable reasons;
7. the defendant shall notify the probation officer at least 10 days prior to any change in residence or employment;
8. the defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not purchase, possess, use, distribute, or administer any narcotic or other controlled substance, or any paraphernalia related to such substances, except as prescribed by a physician;
9. the defendant shall not frequent places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed or administered;
10. the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity, and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer;
11. the defendant shall permit a probation officer to visit him or her at any time at home or elsewhere and shall permit confiscation of any contraband observed in plain view by the probation officer;
12. the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer;
13. the defendant shall not enter into any agreement to act as an informer or a special agent of a law enforcement agency without the permission of the court;
14. as directed by the probation officer, the defendant shall notify third parties of risks that may be occasioned by the defendant's criminal record or personal history or characteristics, and shall permit the probation officer to make such notifications and to conform the defendant's compliance with such notification requirement;
15. the defendant shall, upon release from any period of custody, report to the probation officer within 72 hours;
16. and, for felony cases only: not possess a firearm, destructive device, or any other dangerous weapon.

☒ The defendant will also comply with the following special conditions pursuant to General Order 01-05 (set forth below).

STATUTORY PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO PAYMENT AND COLLECTION OF FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

The defendant shall pay interest on a fine or restitution of more than \$2,500, unless the court waives interest or unless the fine or restitution is paid in full before the fifteenth (15th) day after the date of the judgment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3612(f)(1). Payments may be subject to penalties for default and delinquency pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3612(g). Interest and penalties pertaining to restitution, however, are not applicable for offenses completed prior to April 24, 1996.

If all or any portion of a fine or restitution ordered remains unpaid after the termination of supervision, the defendant shall pay the balance as directed by the United States Attorney's Office. 18 U.S.C. §3613.

The defendant shall notify the United States Attorney within thirty (30) days of any change in the defendant's mailing address or residence until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments are paid in full. 18 U.S.C. §3612(b)(1)(F).

The defendant shall notify the Court through the Probation Office, and notify the United States Attorney of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay a fine or restitution, as required by 18 U.S.C. §3664(k). The Court may also accept such notification from the government or the victim, and may, on its own motion or that of a party or the victim, adjust the manner of payment of a fine or restitution-pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3664(k). See also 18 U.S.C. §3572(d)(3) and for probation 18 U.S.C. §3563(a)(7).

Payments shall be applied in the following order:

1. Special assessments pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3013;
2. Restitution, in this sequence:
 - Private victims (individual and corporate),
 - Providers of compensation to private victims,
 - The United States as victim;
3. Fine;
4. Community restitution, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3663(c); and
5. Other penalties and costs.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR PROBATION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE

As directed by the Probation Officer, the defendant shall provide to the Probation Officer: (1) a signed release authorizing credit report inquiries; (2) federal and state income tax returns or a signed release authorizing their disclosure and (3) an accurate financial statement, with supporting documentation as to all assets, income and expenses of the defendant. In addition, the defendant shall not apply for any loan or open any line of credit without prior approval of the Probation Officer.

The defendant shall maintain one personal checking account. All of defendant's income, "monetary gains," or other pecuniary proceeds shall be deposited into this account, which shall be used for payment of all personal expenses. Records of all other bank accounts, including any business accounts, shall be disclosed to the Probation Officer upon request.

The defendant shall not transfer, sell, give away, or otherwise convey any asset with a fair market value in excess of \$500 without approval of the Probation Officer until all financial obligations imposed by the Court have been satisfied in full.

These conditions are in addition to any other conditions imposed by this judgment.

RETURN

I have executed the within Judgment and Commitment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
Defendant noted on appeal on _____
Defendant released on _____
Mandate issued on _____
Defendant's appeal determined on _____
Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____
the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons, with a certified copy of the within Judgment and Commitment.

United States Marshal

By _____

Date

Deputy Marshal

CERTIFICATE

I hereby attest and certify this date that the foregoing document is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file in my office, and in my legal custody.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

By _____

Filed Date

Deputy Clerk

FOR U.S. PROBATION OFFICE USE ONLY

Upon a finding of violation of probation or supervised release, I understand that the court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

(Signed) _____
Defendant

Date

U. S. Probation Officer/Designated Witness

Date